

West Chester, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) held the fourth of six forums scheduled throughout the Seventh Congressional District to provide important information about obtaining federal, state, and private resources. Speaking to approximately 15 municipal officials in the Conshohocken Free Library, Congressman Sestak first detailed the components of the economic stimulus package, which contains approximately \$275 billion in economic recovery tax cuts and \$550 billion in specific prudential investments. He also presented an overview of the appropriations process and discussed the importance of, as well as best practices for, applying for all types of grants. His staff distributed copies of the Second Edition of the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Grant and Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding, to everyone in attendance. Last year's edition was the first known compilation developed by a Congressional office.

"I see these meetings as critical to fulfilling two parts of my job," said Congressman Sestak. "First, as a representative, it is my responsibility to ensure that local officials have access to me and that I keep them abreast of my work in Washington. Second, I need to make certain that my constituents are aware of the resources available to them. I strive to fulfill this objective by informing my constituents' representatives of the funding opportunities available to them; and, generating discussion between grant-seekers and providers. I am proud of the success these two groups have had coordinating their efforts."

In the meeting, the Congressman expounded upon the new features of the 2nd edition, which includes expanded federal and state references; a new section on private funding; and, an addendum with first responder and environmental resources. The publication also provides a guide to different forms of government assistance and lists online sources to facilitate grant searching and writing. The Congressman further discussed his belief that although the appropriations process is useful for certain projects in the current system, the federal government should focus on grants as the primary means of funding, rather than earmarks.

"Transparency and accountability, pursued in a bipartisan way, should permeate all government actions," said Congressman Sestak. "I am proud to support this Congress's decision to provide earlier disclosure of appropriations requests and to further eliminate earmark distributions. Replacing the former model with a competitive grant process that disregards political influence ensures that all projects stand on their merits."

The Congressman has set up a forum for all interested individuals, non-profits, and other organizations on January 31, as well as a special meeting for all first responders on February 8.

The meeting for all interested private individuals and private, non-profit, and other organizations  
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Delaware County Community College  
Academic Building  
Great Auditorium  
901 South Media Line Road  
Media, PA 19063  
Saturday January 31st  
12-1PM

The meeting for First Responders:

Manoa Fire Company  
115 S. Eagle Rd  
Havertown, Pa. 19063  
February 8th  
2-3PM

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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